BY BYRNE & GIORDANO
SUPERMAN® VS. THE DEMON™
ACTION COMICS
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587
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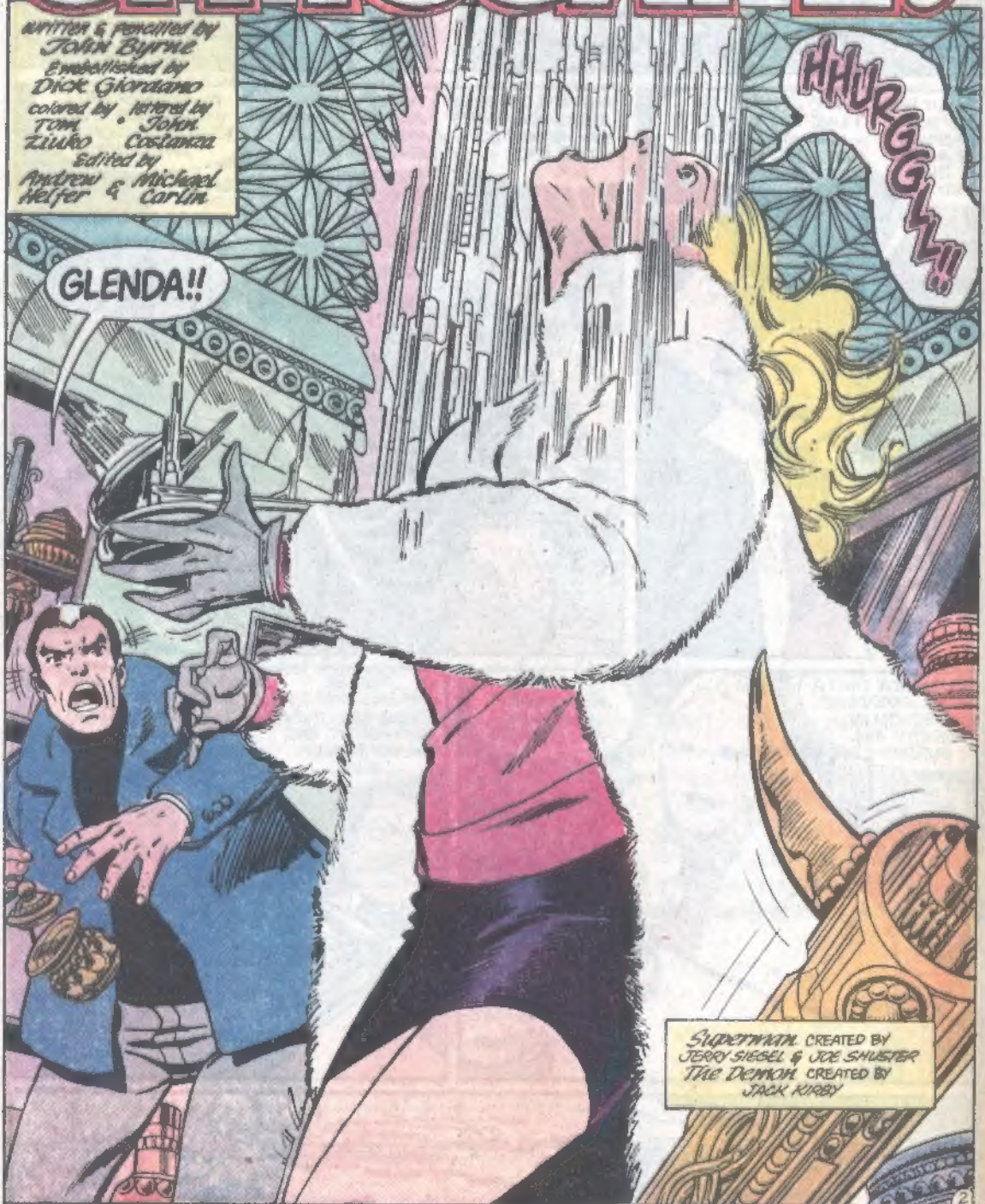
APR. 87
THOUGH WE'VE FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE, MAN OF STEEL--
--YOU MUST DIE, SO THAT MILLIONS MAY LIVE!
THE HISTORY OF THE DC UNIVERSE is must reading
CITY OF LOST SOULS!

MISS MARK! SO GOOD TO SEE YOU!
IT HAS BEEN A WHILE!
YES, IT HAS. BUT NOT BECAUSE I PLANNED IT THAT WAY.
MR. JANKE, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET A VERY GOOD FRIEND OF MINE, JASON BLOOD.
THE WORLD-FAMOUS DEMONOLOGIST? YOU HONOR MY LITTLE SHOP, SIR.
THANK YOU, SIR. GLENDA HAS SPOKEN HIGHLY OF YOUR ESTABLISHMENT.
MY FRIENDS AND I WERE EAGER TO SEE YOUR COLLECTION OF ANTIQUITIES.
YOU SEEM TO HAVE FOUND A FRIEND, HARRY.
I DUNNO, RANDY. KINDA REMINDS ME OF MY LAST BLIND DATE!
YOU'LL NOT FIND A MORE EXTENSIVE COLLECTION IN THIS CITY, MR. BLOOD.
OH, THIS IS BEAUTIFUL! WHAT IS IT, MR. JANKE?
ER... BEST BE CAREFUL WITH THAT, MISS MARK. I JUST ACQUIRED IT, AND I'M NOT REALLY SURE...
LOOK! THERE'S SOME KIND OF CATCH ON THE SIDE. I DO BELIEVE IT...
SLIC
...OPENS...
OW!!
G-2093
1

SUPERMAN and THE DEMON:

CITYSCAPE!



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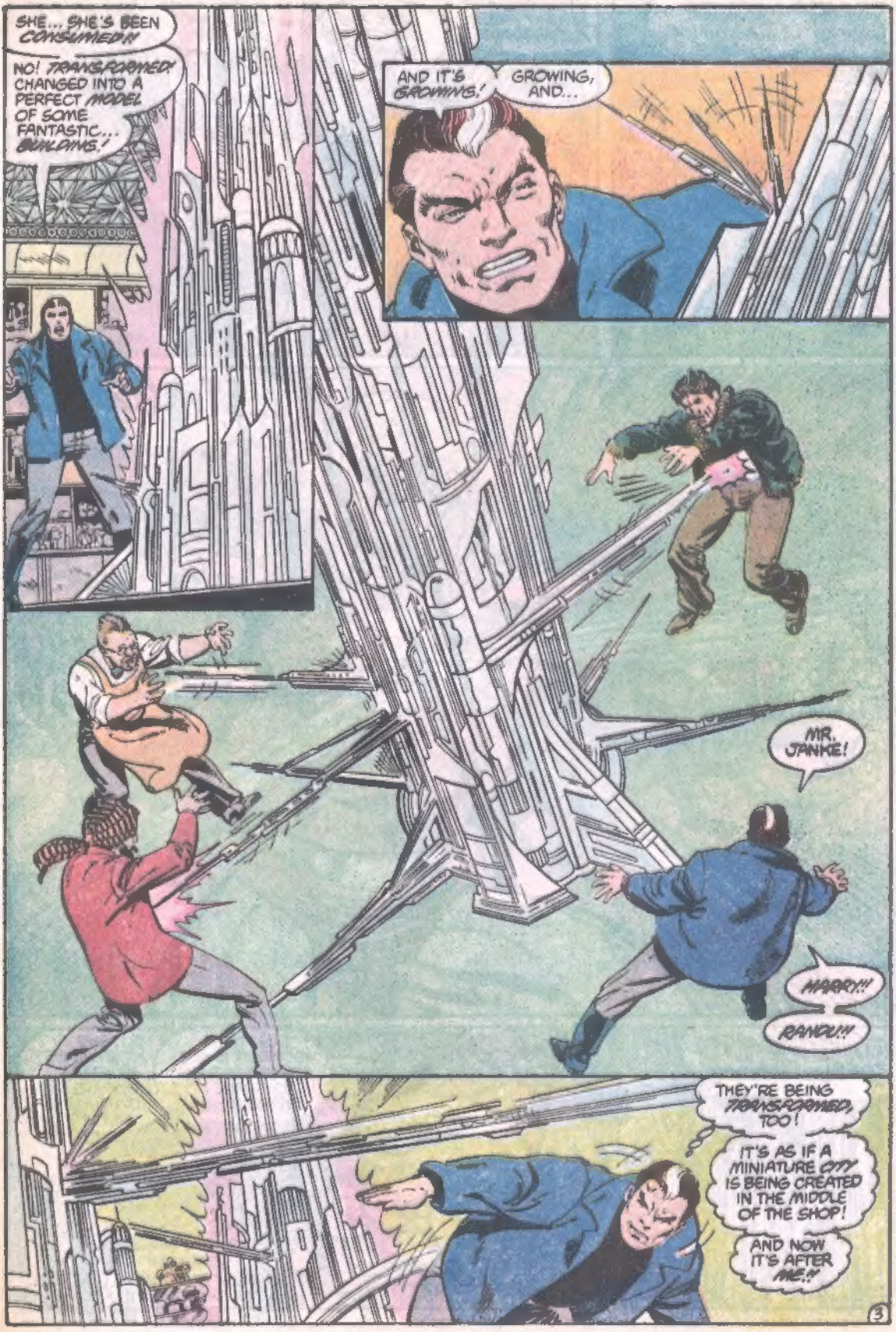
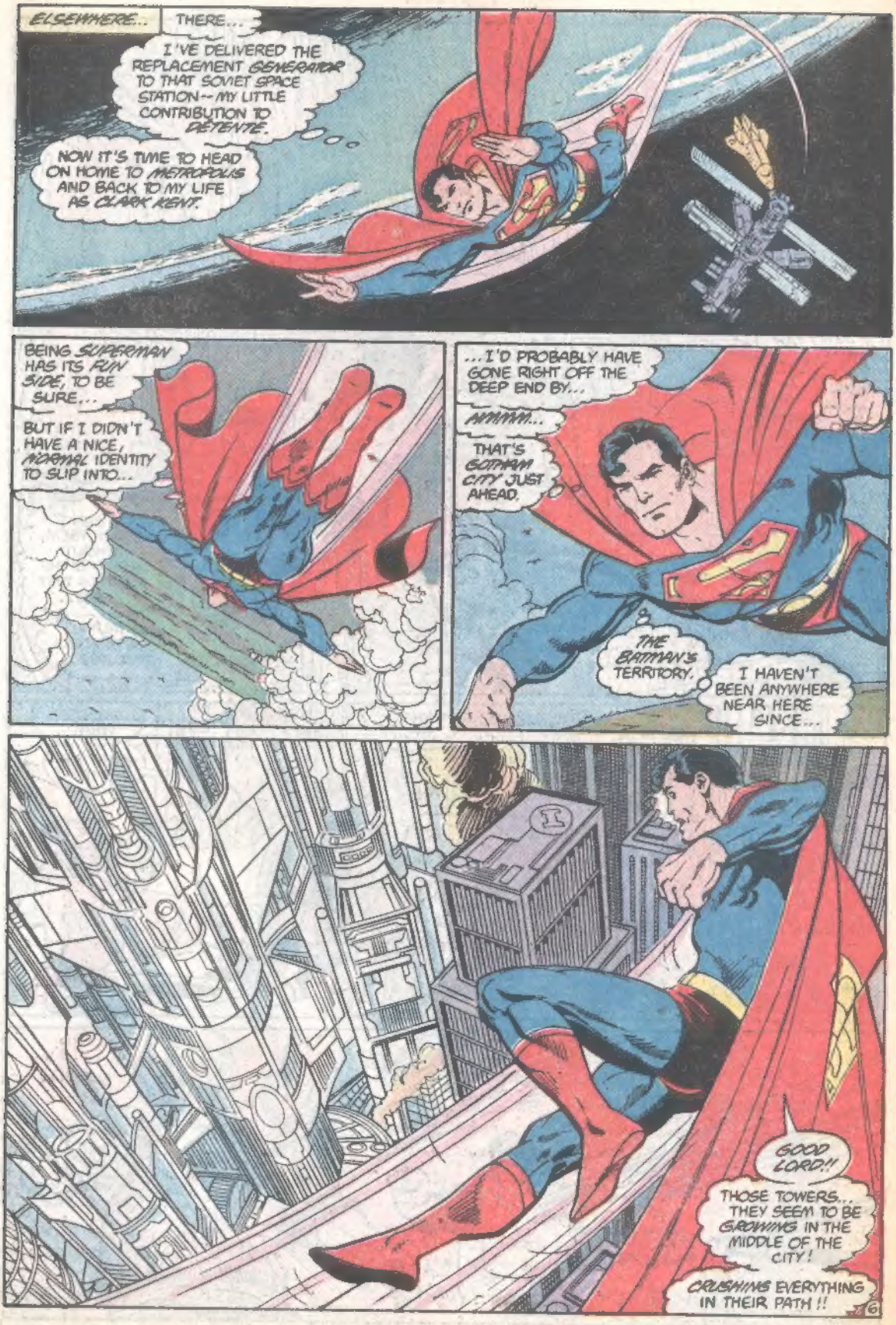
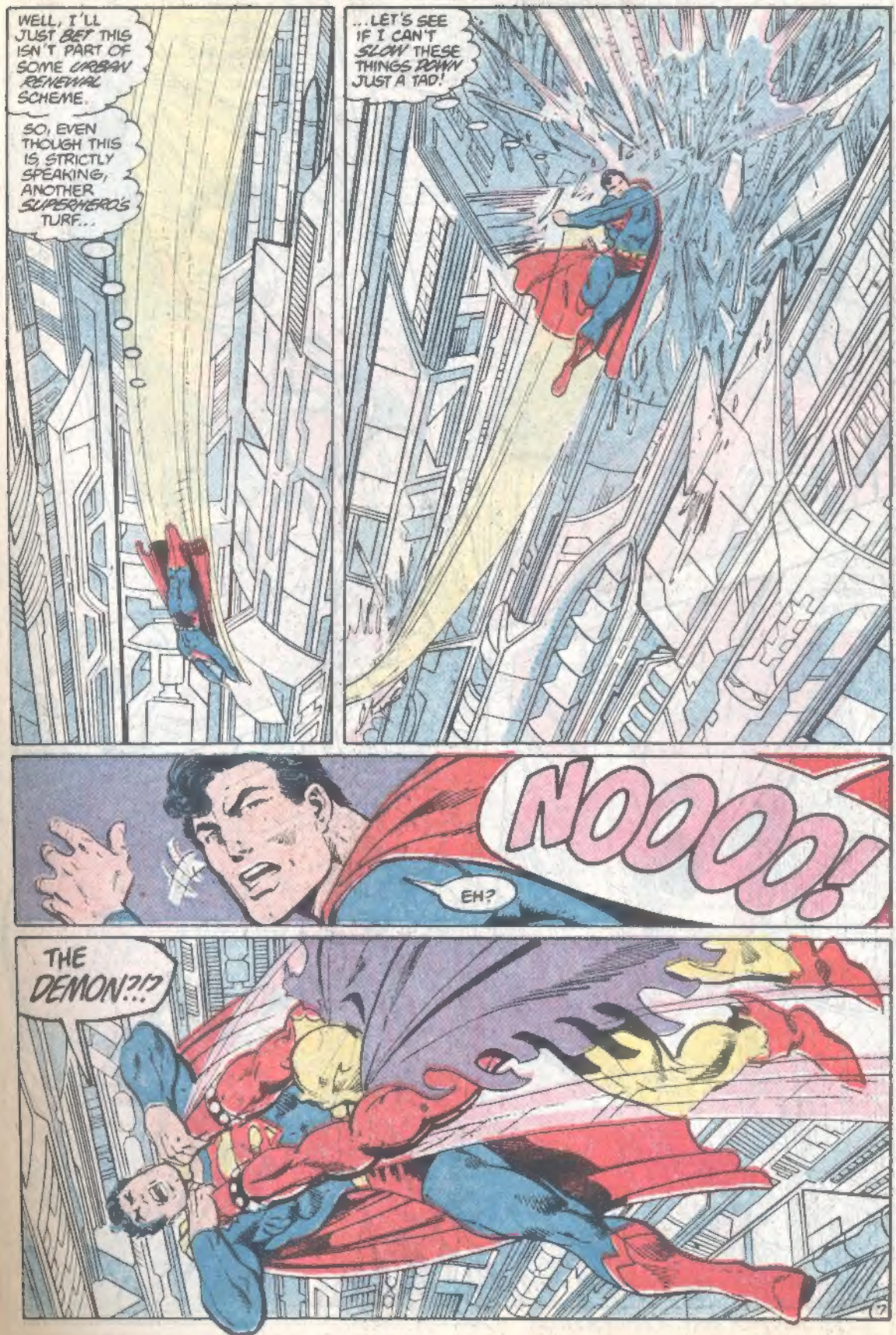

SHE... SHE'S BEEN CONSUMED!!
NO! TRANSFORMED! CHANGED INTO A PERFECT MODEL OF SOME FANTASTIC... BUILDING!
AND IT'S GROWING!
GROWING, AND...
MR. JANKE!
HARRY!!
RANDU!!
THEY'RE BEING TRANSFORMED, TOO!
IT'S AS IF A MINIATURE CITY IS BEING CREATED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SHOP!
AND NOW IT'S AFTER ME!!
3

BUT I HAVE A WAY TO STOP IT!
CHANGE, CHANGE, O FORM OF MAN!
RELEASE THE MIGHT FROM FLESHY MIRE!
BOIL THE BLOOD IN HEART OF FIRE!
GONE, GONE, THE FORM OF MAN!
RISE THE DEMON...
...ETRIGAN!!
HAHAHAHA!!
THIS MYSTIC ARTIFACT IS NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO PIERCE A DEMON'S HIDE!!
BUT THE FRIENDS OF MY OTHER SELF ARE STILL ITS HELPLESS VICTIMS!
ETRIGAN MUST FIND A WAY TO SAVE THEM!!
4
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

BUT NOW..??
THE TOWERS CONTINUE TO GROW... SOON THEY WILL BURST OUT OF THE SHOP.
HOW CAN I CONTAIN THEM, WITHOUT ANNIHILATING THE MORTALS THEY HOUSE...?
IF IN TRUTH, THOSE MORTALS STILL LIVE!
WHAT TH...??
GEORGE! WHAT...
WHAT IS THAT??
5


ELSEWHERE...
THERE...
I'VE DELIVERED THE REPLACEMENT GENERATOR TO THAT SOVIET SPACE STATION -- MY LITTLE CONTRIBUTION TO DETENTE.
NOW IT'S TIME TO HEAD ON HOME TO METROPOLIS AND BACK TO MY LIFE AS CLARK KENT.
BEING SUPERMAN HAS ITS FUN SIDE, TO BE SURE...
BUT IF I DIDN'T HAVE A NICE, NORMAL IDENTITY TO SLIP INTO...
...I'D PROBABLY HAVE GONE RIGHT OFF THE DEEP END BY...
MMMM...
THAT'S GOTHAM CITY JUST AHEAD.
THE BATMAN'S TERRITORY.
I HAVEN'T BEEN ANYWHERE NEAR HERE SINCE...
GOOD LORD!!
THOSE TOWERS... THEY SEEM TO BE GROWING IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY!
CRUSHING EVERYTHING IN THEIR PATH!!
6


WELL, I'LL JUST BET THIS ISN'T PART OF SOME URBAN RENEWAL SCHEME.
SO, EVEN THOUGH THIS IS, STRICTLY SPEAKING, ANOTHER SUPERHERO'S TURF...
...LET'S SEE IF I CAN'T SLOW THESE THINGS DOWN JUST A TAD!
NOOOO!
EH?
THE DEMON?!?
7

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU'RE INVOLVED IN THIS, ETRIGAN...
BUT IF YOU'VE FINALLY REVERTED TO YOUR HELL-BORN BEGINNINGS, AND TURNED AGAINST HUMANKIND...
YOU'LL FIND ME READY TO STOP YOU!"
NOW GET OFF ME!"
NO! NO! NO!
YOU MUST NOT HARM THE TOWERS!!
8

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

DEMON-FLAME!!
IT'S NOT... HARMING ME... PHYSICALLY...
BUT IT FEELS LIKE IT'S... BURNING RIGHT THROUGH MY BRAIN... MY SOUL!
MAKING IT... ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO... CONCENTRATE.
CAN BARELY... KEEP MYSELF... ALOFT.
AS I FALL PAST ETRIGAN...
ONE CHANCE...
GOT TO TWIST...
GOT HIM!!

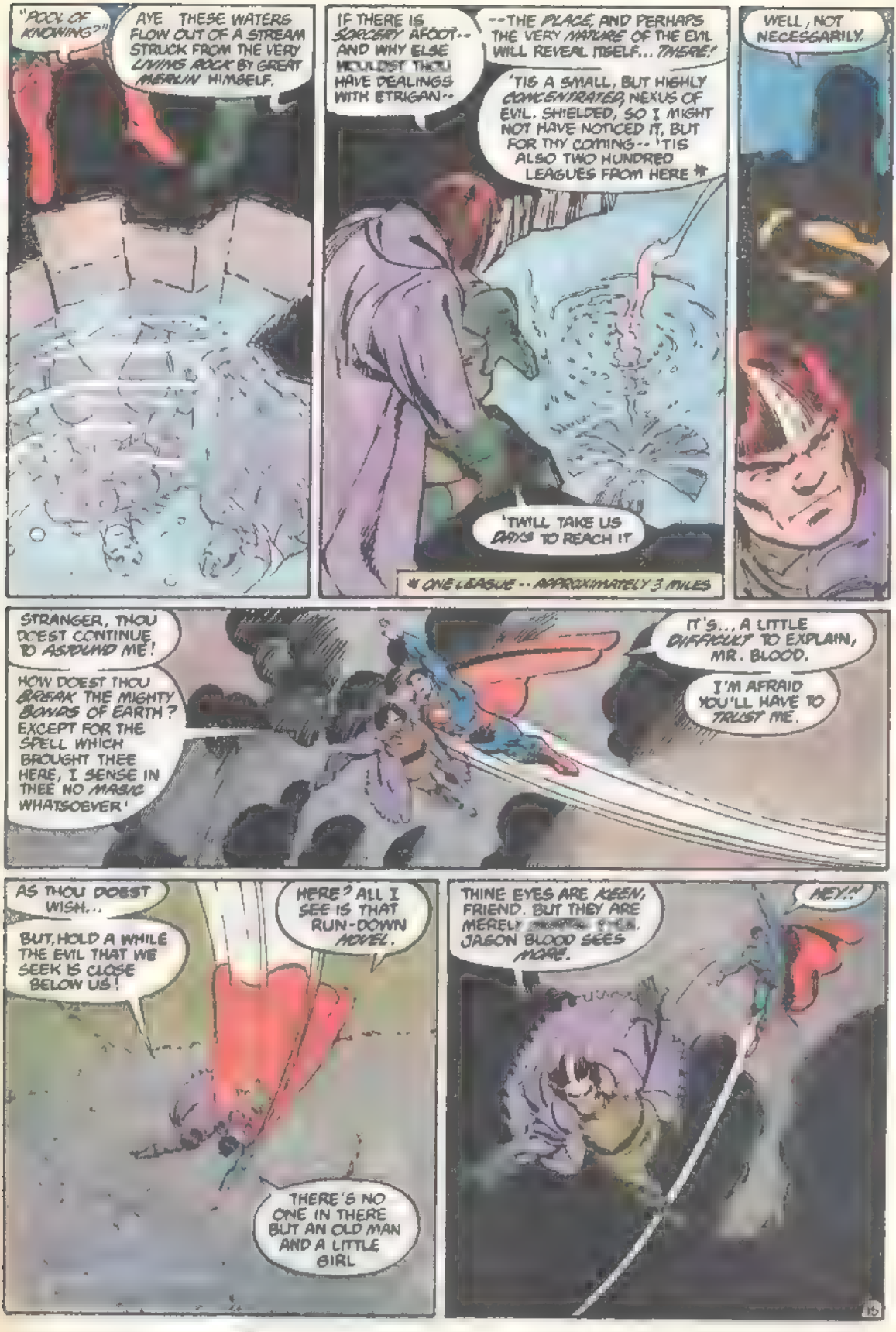
NOW...
LET'S SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE TO END THIS!
AHHH-GH!
ETRIGAN BIDS YOU!
STAY YOUR HAND!
LOOK BEHIND YOU!
SUPERMAN--STOP!!
LOOK AT THE TOWERS!
WHAT...??
WHAT ARE YOU..
.. OH MY GOD.
THAT'S BLOOD!
HUMAN BLOOD!!
10

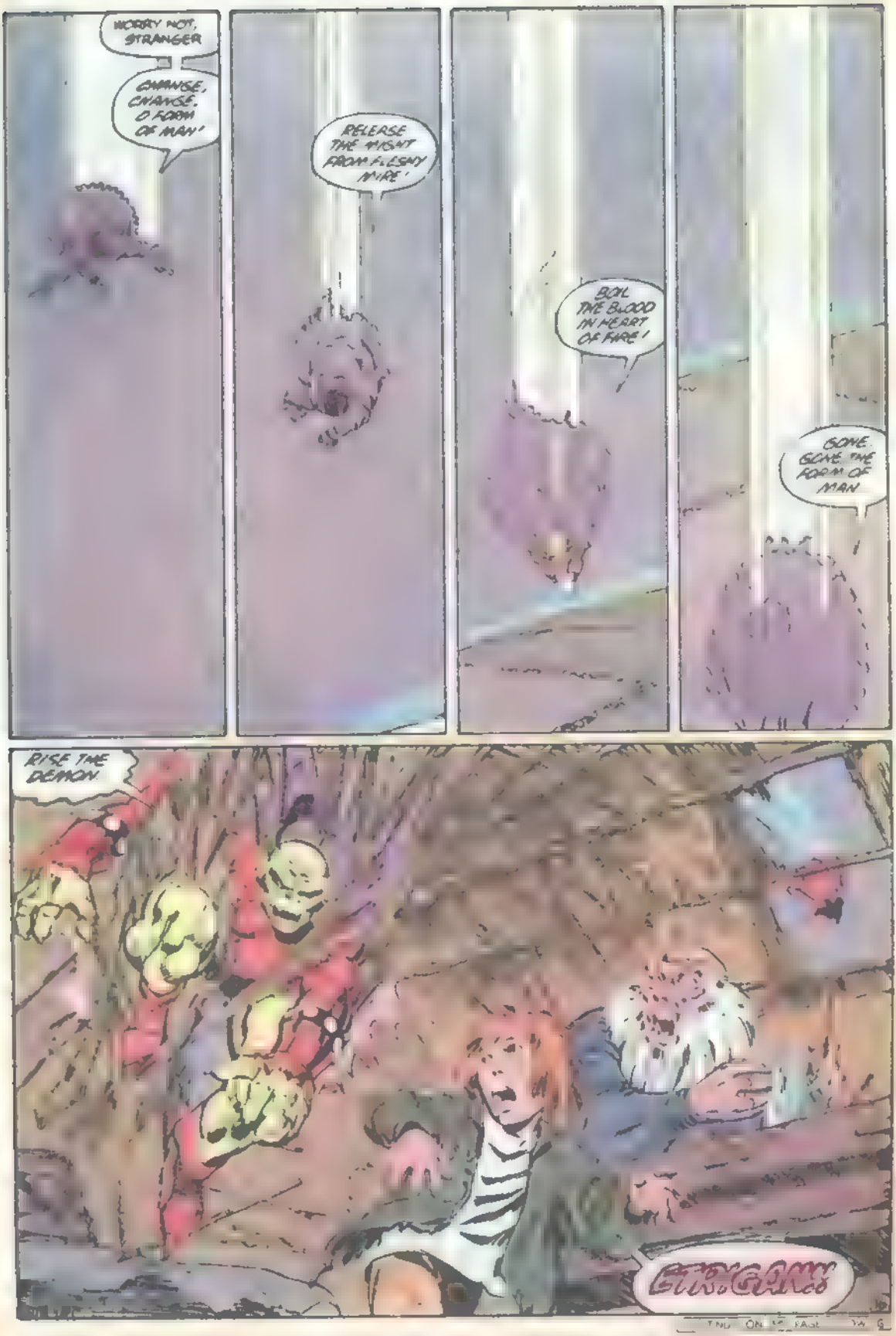
YES, MAN OF STEEL
BLOOD.
THE BLOOD OF INNOCENTS!
INNOCENTS ETRIGAN HAS STRUGGLED TO PROTECT.
FOR EACH OF THESE TOWERS IS A TRANSFORMED HUMAN BEING!
MANY NOW MORTALLY WOUNDED BY YOUR ACTIONS, SUPERMAN.
MANY NOW DYING BECAUSE OF YOU!
N-NO. !
HOW..
HOW COULD THAT BE?
HOW COULD THIS TERRIBLE THING HAVE HAPPENED?
THAT MATTERS LESS NOW THAN HOW IT MAY BE UNDONE.
UNDONE..?
YOU YOU MEAN THERE'S STILL A CHANCE TO SAVE THESE PEOPLE?
HOW, DEMON?
HOW?!?
LESS "HOW" THAN "WHEN," SUPERMAN
THE DAMAGE IS DONE THE ONLY WAY TO SAVE THESE CURSED FOLK IS TO STOP THE HARM BEFORE IT HAPPENED..
..BY THE SPELL OF 'TEMPUS FRANSIT!'
"TEMPUS FRANSIT"?
THAT'S... OLD LATIN. IT MEANS...
"TIME BREAKER!!!"
AYE!
11

WHAT
WHERE IS THIS PLACE..??
SUPERMAN!
DEMON!
WHERE ARE YOU?
I REMAIN IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, SUPERMAN I COULD NOT CROSS MY OWN TIMELINE, TO TRAVEL WITH YOU
HEAR ME I HAVE BUT SECONDS TO SPEAK
YOU ARE NOW IN THE YEAR 11852 A.D. THAT IS THE SOURCE OF THE MAGIC WHICH CREATED THE LIVING TOWERS.
IN YONDER TOWN YOU WILL FIND THE HELP YOU NEED TO VANQUISH THIS EVIL, IF VANQUISHED IT MAY BE!
SEEK OUT JASON BLOOD SUPERMAN YOU HAVE ONE HOUR BEFORE THE SPELL I'VE WOVEN BREAKS, AND YOU RETURN TO THE PRESENT
JASON BLOOD? BUT.. HE'S A MAN OF MY OWN TIME--A RESEARCHER INTO THE OCCULT.
HOW CAN JASON BLOOD BE.
DEMON?
ETRIGAN!!
HE'S GONE!
"AND ALL I CAN DO IS.. OBEY HIM!"
BRING OUT YUR DEAD!
BRING OUT YUR DEAD!!
THAT MAN
HE'S COLLECTING THE BODIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE BLACK PLAGUE!
WHAT HAS ETRIGAN DROPPED ME INTO??
EXCUSE ME, SIR, DO YOU KNOW ER I MEAN KNOWEST THOU WHERE I MIGHT FIND A MAN CALLED JASON BLOOD?
EH?

SEEKEST THOU THE STRANGE ONE? THOU ART A STRANGER HERE THYSELF.
FORSOOTH, I KNOWEST NOT WHY ANY TRAVELLER WOULD STOP IN THIS ACCURSED PLACE..
. BUT HIM THOU SEEKEST DWELLS YONDER, IN THE FINAL HOUSE UPON THE LEFT
THANK YOU. .
CLAVE. WHO WERE THAT FELLOW?
A KING, I'LL WARRANT WHO E_SE COULD WALK ABROAD WITH ROBES UNTOUCHED BY FILTH!
LAST HOUSE ON THE LEFT .
NOT A VERY WELCOMING PLACE-- ALTHOUGH IT DOES APPEAR MR BLOOD FARES SOMEWHAT BETTER THAN MOST OF HIS NEIGHBORS
IS HE SOME ANCESTOR OF THE JASON BLOOD OF MY TIME? HOW CAN I INTRODUCE MYSELF? "HI, I'M FROM THE FUTURE" DOESN'T QUITE SEEM..
WELCOME, STRANGER. I HAVE BEEN EXPECTING THEE

EXPECTING ME...?
OF COURSE
I SENSED THE MYSTICAL FORCE WHICH BROUGHT THEE HERE
I KNOW NOT WHENCE THOU CAME -- BUT I KNOW THOU ART HARBINGER OF SOME GREAT WOE.
SOME EVIL WHICH I MUST NOW ADDRESS.
FASCINATING! THIS MAN COULD BE THE TWIN BROTHER OF THE OTHER JASON BLOOD!
THEY EVEN SEEM TO BE IN THE --AH-- SAME LINE OF WORK.
I NEED YOUR HELP, SIR I WAS SENT TO CONTACT YOU BY A . BEING KNOWN AS ETRIGAN
ETRIGAN?!?
WHAT MANNER OF FOOLISH JEST IS THIS?
NO JEST, SIR IT'S FAR TOO COMPLICATED TO EXPLAIN, BUT ETRIGAN AND I ARE ALLIES IN ANOTHER TIME
THOU CLAIMEST KNOWLEDGE OF MERLIN'S SERVANT DEMON
..YET I POSSESS NO MEMORY OF THEE.
NEVERTHELESS, THOU ART NO EVIL THY VALOR AND NOBILITY SHINETH LIKE BEACONS
VERY WELL, STRANGER I ACCEPT THE TRUTH OF THY WORDS, FOR THE NONCE
THEN...YOU CAN HELP ME? I MEAN, THOU CANST...
COME -- THERE IS MAGIC WE MUST ATTEND!
I UNDERSTAND THY STRANGE SPEECH, FRIEND, FEAR NOT. IN FACT, IT ADDS SOME CREDENCE TO THY STORY.
NOW, LOOK THEE HERE INTO THE SWIRLING WATERS OF THE POOL OF KNOWING.

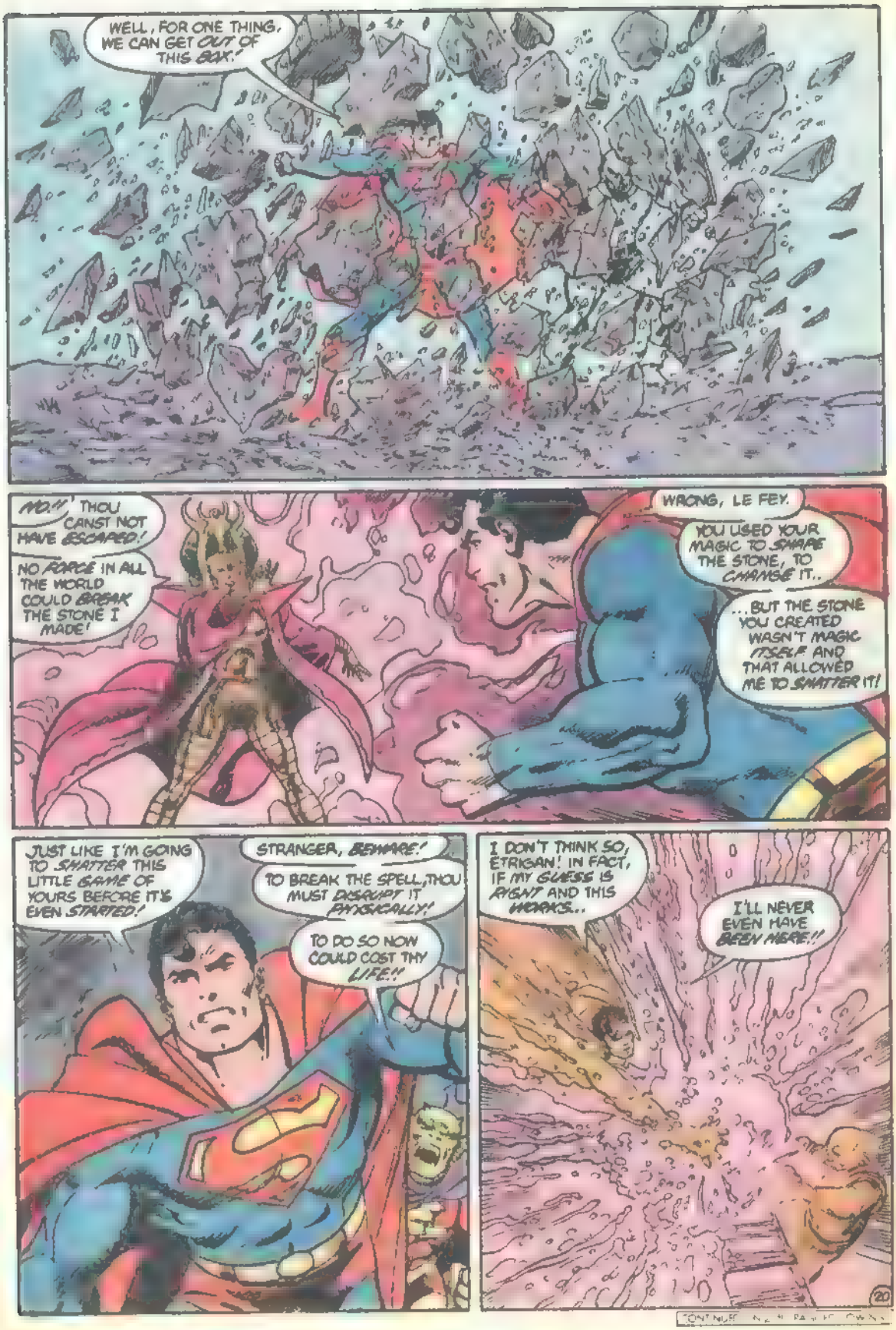

"POOL OF KNOWING?"
AYE. THESE WATERS FLOW OUT OF A STREAM STRUCK FROM THE VERY LIVING ROCK BY GREAT MERLIN HIMSELF.
IF THERE IS SORCERY AFOOT-- AND WHY ELSE SHOULDST THOU HAVE DEALINGS WITH ETRIGAN--
--THE PLACE, AND PERHAPS THE VERY NATURE OF THE EVIL WILL REVEAL ITSELF... THERE!
'TIS A SMALL, BUT HIGHLY CONCENTRATED NEXUS OF EVIL. SHIELDED, SO I MIGHT NOT HAVE NOTICED IT, BUT FOR THY COMING-- 'TIS ALSO TWO HUNDRED LEAGUES FROM HERE *
'TWILL TAKE US DAYS TO REACH IT
* ONE LEAGUE -- APPROXIMATELY 3 MILES
WELL, NOT NECESSARILY.
STRANGER, THOU DOEST CONTINUE TO ASTOUND ME!
HOW DOEST THOU BREAK THE MIGHTY BONDS OF EARTH? EXCEPT FOR THE SPELL WHICH BROUGHT THEE HERE, I SENSE IN THEE NO MAGIC WHATSOEVER!
IT'S... A LITTLE DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN, MR. BLOOD.
I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO TRUST ME.
AS THOU DOEST WISH...
BUT, HOLD A WHILE THE EVIL THAT WE SEEK IS CLOSE BELOW US!
HERE? ALL I SEE IS THAT RUN-DOWN MOVIE!
THERE'S NO ONE IN THERE BUT AN OLD MAN AND A LITTLE GIRL
THINE EYES ARE KEEN, FRIEND. BUT THEY ARE MERELY [illegible]. JASON BLOOD SEES MORE.
HEY!

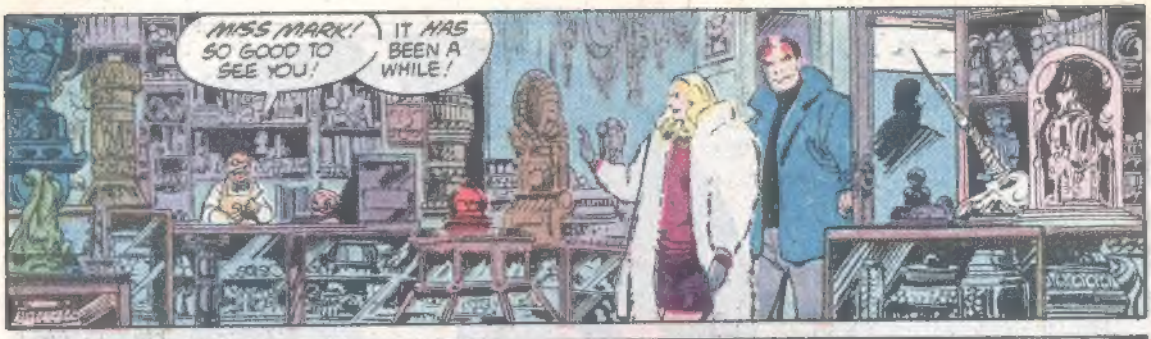

WORRY NOT, STRANGER
CHANGE, CHANGE. O FORM OF MAN!
RELEASE THE MIGHT FROM FLESHY MIRE!
BOIL THE BLOOD IN HEART OF FIRE!
GONE. GONE THE FORM OF MAN
RISE THE DEMON
GRRGAHH

AYE, WITCH! CRY OUT MY NAME! 'TWILL BE THE LAST WORD THY LIPS SHALL FORM!
EEEEK!!
THE DEMON! JASON BLOOD HIMSELF IS THE DEMON!!
ETRIGAN! STOP! SHE'S ONLY A CHILD!
CHILD?
SUCH SMOKE SHE WEARS.
.. BUT UNDERNEATH, LIKE A VIPER HIDING IN A STRING OF PRETTY POSIES..
.. SHE'S THE MOST VILE OF ALL EVILS..
MORGAINE LE FEY!"
THOU DOST ASTOUND ME, DEMON. I THOUGHT THIS PLACE WELL HIDDEN..
.. EVEN FROM THE EYES OF SUCH AS THEE!

M-MY GRAND-DAUGHTER!! WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HER??
WHEN THE PLAGUE TOOK HER I THOUGHT MY HEART WOULD BREAK BUT THE LORD HEARD MY PRAYERS, AND BROUGHT HER BACK TO ME!
THOU HAST BEEN CRUELLY USED, OLD FATHER
LIKE MANY A DEVIL, MORGAINE LE FEY CAN QUOTE THE WORDS OF SCRIPTURE TO HER OWN ENDS
AYE, ETRIGAN. THIS OLD FOOL'S FAITH IN THE USURPER GOD WAS USEFUL TO ME
NOW
...NEITHER THEE NOR THY STRANGELY GARBED COMPANION SHALL DISRUPT MY PLAN!
A STONE CAGE! LIKE UNTO FORGED IRON!
NOT EVEN MY DEMON'S STRENGTH CAN BREAK THROUGH SOMETHING WROUGHT BY MORGAINE'S MAGICKS!
NO, ETRIGAN.
THOU MAY HAVE FOILED ME IN THE PAST, BUT THIS TIME THE PRIZE IS MINE!!
WITH THE PUNY SKILLS OF THIS OLD MORTAL, I WEAVE MY MASTER SPELL!
A SPELL TO LIE ASLEEPING TILL THE WORLD HAS GROWN BEYOND THIS FILTH AND CRAWLING SLIME!

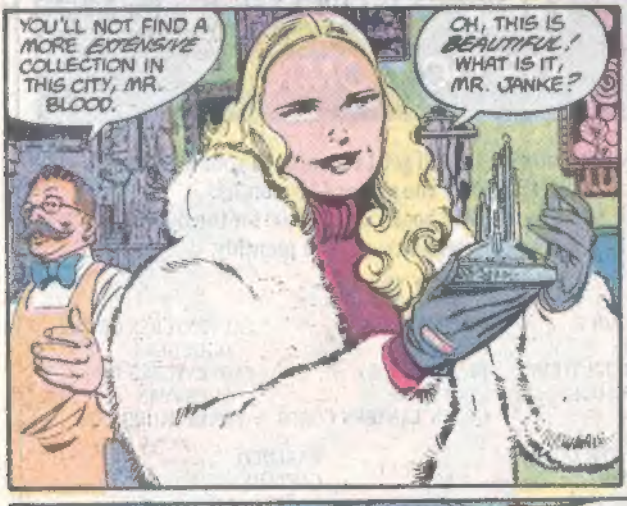
THEN SHALL THE CITADEL OF MORGAINE LE FEY CREATE ITSELF!
THEN SHALL MY GLEAMING CITY APPEAR!
MY PERFECT CITY--CAPITOL OF MY FUTURE KINGDOM!!
NOW, OLD MAN, BACK TO WORK! THY PART IN THIS IS NEARLY DONE!
A MOMENT MORE, AND THE PRECIOUS SPELL SHALL BE UNBREAKABLE!
WITCH! FOUL ENCHANTRESS! THOU HAST DECEIVED ME! THOU HAST BLASPHEMED AGAINST MY GOD!
I'LL WORK FOR THEE NO MORE!!
NO?
CRETIN! THE WORD OF MORGAINE LE FEY IS POWER ABSOLUTE! THOU HAS NOT WIT NOR WAY TO CHALLENGE ME!
THOU HAST NO WILL, NO THOUGHT OR WISH SAVE MINE!!
:UNGH!!:
I... DON'T GET IT! IF THIS LE FEY WOMAN IS SO POWERFUL, WHY DOES SHE NEED THAT POOR OLD MAN?
THE SPELL SHE SEEKS TO WORK IS COMPLEX AND UNBREAKABLE, STRANGER. EVEN ONE SO SKILLED IN THE ANNALS OF THE BLACK ARTS AS SHE MUST USE A HUMAN MIND TO CRAFT THE PHYSICAL ASPECT...
... WHILE SHE IS LEFT TO CONCENTRATE HER UNMATCHED POWER INTO THE SHAPING OF THE MYSTIC FORCES. A MOMENT'S LOSS OF THAT CONCENTRATION, AND HER GREAT SCHEME WILL FAIL!
YOU MEAN... IF SOMETHING WERE TO DISTURB THE SPELL NOW, SHE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO RECREATE IT?
THEN--THE FUTURE CAN BE SAVED IF WE ACT NOW!!
THY WHIRLING WORDS MEAN NAUGHT TO ME, FRIEND.
THE STRENGTH SHE PLACED WITHIN THIS STONE IS MORE THAN ETRIGAN CAN OVERCOME.
WHAT CAN BE DONE?


WELL, FOR ONE THING, WE CAN GET OUT OF THIS BOX!
NO!! THOU CANST NOT HAVE ESCAPED!
NO FORCE IN ALL THE WORLD COULD BREAK THE STONE I MADE!
WRONG, LE FEY.
YOU USED YOUR MAGIC TO SHAPE THE STONE, TO CHANGE IT..
...BUT THE STONE YOU CREATED WASN'T MAGIC ITSELF AND THAT ALLOWED ME TO SHATTER IT!
JUST LIKE I'M GOING TO SHATTER THIS LITTLE GAME OF YOURS BEFORE IT'S EVEN STARTED!
STRANGER, BEWARE!
TO BREAK THE SPELL, THOU MUST DISRUPT IT PHYSICALLY!
TO DO SO NOW COULD COST THY LIFE!!
I DON'T THINK SO, ETRIGAN! IN FACT, IF MY GUESS IS RIGHT AND THIS WORKS..
I'LL NEVER EVEN HAVE BEEN HERE!!
20


MISS MARK! SO GOOD TO SEE YOU!
IT HAS BEEN A WHILE!

YES, IT HAS. BUT NOT BECAUSE I PLANNED IT THAT WAY.
MR. JANKE, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET A VERY GOOD FRIEND OF MINE, JASON BLOOD.

THE WORLD FAMOUS DEMONOLOGIST? YOU HONOR MY LITTLE SHOP, SIR.
THANK YOU, SIR. GLENDA HAS SPOKEN HIGHLY OF YOUR ESTABLISHMENT.
MY FRIENDS AND I WERE EAGER TO SEE YOUR COLLECTION OF ANTIQUITIES.
YOU SEEM TO HAVE FOUND A FRIEND, HARRY.
I DUNNO, RANDY. KINDA REMINDS ME OF MY LAST BLIND DATE!


YOU'LL NOT FIND A MORE EXTENSIVE COLLECTION IN THIS CITY, MR. BLOOD.
OH, THIS IS BEAUTIFUL! WHAT IS IT, MR. JANKE?

ER... BEST BE CAREFUL WITH THAT, MISS MARK. I JUST ACQUIRED IT, AND I'M NOT REALLY SURE...
LOOK! THERE'S SOME KIND OF CATCH ON THE SIDE. I DO BELIEVE IT...
CLICK

...OPENS...
OH...
WHAT A DISAPPOINTMENT!
IT'S EMPTY!

WELL--DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, GLENDA.
LOOK HERE--ISN'T THIS PIECE JUST WHAT YOU WERE LOOKING FOR?
OHH, YES! JASON, THAT'S ABSOLUTELY PERFECT FOR MY APARTMENT!
HOW MUCH IS IT, MR. JANKE?
FOR YOU, MISS MARK...
HEY! LOOK UP IN THE SKY!
IT'S SUPERMAN!
WHAT'S HE DOING IN GOTHAM, I WONDER?
JUST PASSING THROUGH, FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, RANDU.
AT LEAST, WHATEVER MIGHT HAVE BROUGHT HIM HERE...
IT SEEMS TO BE OF NO CONCERN TO JASON BLOOD...
...OR THE DEMON!
NEXT in Action: SUPERMAN TEAMS WITH HAWKMAN and HAWKWOMAN!

THE EVENTS IN THIS ISSUE TAKE PLACE PRIOR TO THOSE IN THE DEMON MINI-SERIES.

RE:ACTION COMICS

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Hello, good evening and welcome to the first ACTION COMICS letters page dealing with the "new" ACTION COMICS!

First off, as you probably know already (you *have* been reading the companion Superman magazines ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN and SUPERMAN, haven't you? Whew! Ya had us scared there for a minute!), Mike Carlin has joined John Byrne, Dick Giordano, Andy Helfer and the rest of the DC staff as an editor! Case closed. (If you have been with us in those other titles, you've already heard enough about that guy to last you a lifetime!)

On to more important matters...

Your letters concerning the "new/improved" ACTION COMICS:

Dear DC:

It's great to have ACTION COMICS back again! Especially now that it seems likely to live up to its name. ACTION #584 certainly did.

I have not enjoyed an issue of ACTION this much for quite a time. At last we get some full-blooded action with ideal guest stars! (John mentioned that the Phantom Stranger will be teaming up with the Man of Steel next and then the New Gods. Boy, oh, boy! You sure know how to answer a guy's prayers!) This is what a Superman comic should be! Not Superman matching "wits" with every jerk that comes along month after month—I for one want to see more ACTION! More physical endeavour by this unstoppable juggernaut from Krypton; let's see him win a few battles decisively for a change and not just by the skin of his teeth, either!

John Byrne's artwork, as always, was a pleasure to behold. Dick Giordano must surely agree. Their portrayal of action-packed sequences, broken buildings, physical strain and impact is something that not only ACTION COMICS, but all the Superman mags sorely needed!

John's said in his editorials that he felt an enormous responsibility in tampering with "The Legend." He can rest assured that, if what I've seen so far is any indication, he has certainly lived up to the responsibility and *enhanced* "The Legend"!

I even like the logo!

If I'm starting to sound monotonous, harping on the ACTION angle, it's only because I have been very disappointed in the way DC has handled Superman for years, up until now. Anyway, great job so far and I wish you every success in the future.

Steve Wren
92 Derby Crescent
Chipping Norton NSW
2170, Australia

Well, Steve, how'd we do, prayer-wise, this issue with the Demon? *Hmmmm? And what d'ya say 'bout* Hawkman *next and the* Green Lantern Corps *after that? Those two take care of any of your other prayers of late? We thought so. And feel free to drop us a future prayer or two every now and then, as well ... we'll see what we can do! And if we ever slip up on getting enough action into a future issue, we can always just reprint that letter and have "action" coming out of our ears!!*

* * * * *

Dear Andrew, John and Dick:

Re: ACTION COMICS #584:

Well, we now have the third "new" Superman title ... so how does it measure up to the others? Very well, indeed, I am pleased to report. The cover was the best of the three. I liked the logo in particular, and the way you worked Superman's and the Teen Titans' names into it. I hope you'll continue this format in the future.

The story certainly lived up to the title: ACTION! Barely a panel went by without Superman tearing something to pieces, and while I agree with John's sentiments on the text page, I hope that future issues will contain a bit more plot (after all, the story was resolved and explained in the last couple of pages). I did enjoy the inclusion of Lex Luthor on the last page and I eagerly await Luthor's discovery of Superman's true identity in the next issue of SUPERMAN. I also liked the way Superman avoided disclosing his Clark Kent identity when telling the Titans how his mind was "switched."

On the art side of things, this work was not as good as when John does full pencils ... but Byrne layouts are still better than 99% of most other people's finished art. Dick Giordano's inks were as good as always.

The best part of the issue for me was when Changeling answered the phone at Titans Tower ala Ms. Dipesto from "Moonlighting"—sorry, but my sense of humor is *that* bad. Thanks again for a great issue. Speak to you next time.

Norman Ore
3 Dennett Close, Woolston
Warrington, Cheshire
WA1 4EF, England

P.S. Did you notice that I didn't even complain that I'm not eligible for the deluxe MAN OF STEEL draw???

We noticed, Norman. It's terribly hard for us to keep explaining all the contractual and legal reasons for that unfortunate stipulation about being a United States resident in the drawing's rules—let's just say that we appreciate your understanding in the matter (Heck, our mothers aren't even eligible for that particular contest drawing ... employees' relatives and all that! Hmmmmph!).

Also, Norm, you wouldn't really want us to resolve any of our stories in the first couple of pages, would you?! We thought not.

* * * * *

Friends:

ACTION COMICS #584 left me worried. Not because of its quality: there was nice art, clear scripting and plenty of "action" (too much fighting, though, for my tastes—but I learned long ago that this is inevitable in superhero team-up books). No problem there. And if, for me, the Teen Titans just aren't the *real* Teen Titans without Dick Grayson and Kori*and*'r, well, that's *my* problem.

Believe it or not, it's the story that has me worried. Worried about the fate of the world!

First, what will Superman and the Teen Titans do with Gunderson? Superman's wise words were not likely to change him overnight; he still has a lot of bitterness to overcome. So what, then, can Superman do? Send him to prison? He could still make his machine again when he gets out, or sell the secret of its design. If he's sent to a psychiatric hospital, he can do the same. There is still no cure for criminal hostility. Even if there was, how can he be prevented from economically benefiting from his invention? Physically handicapped amateur scientists are not usually wealthy, or even comfortably well-off. Should Gunderson, whose inventive brilliance is his only marketable asset, be denied profit from its use? If not, we should assume that Lex Luthor (for example) would be delighted to hire him.

An even worse problem exists. What

will Superman and the Teen Titans do with the mind-transfer machine itself? Destroy it? But it should be studied by those who would use such an incredible creation to the benefit of mankind. Take it to the Teen Titans' Tower? That tower has been infiltrated and vandalized by more than one super-villain. Hide it in Clark's apartment? Take it to Smallville, for the Kent's back cupboard? Hand it over to the government? Drop it in a chasm? A machine of such import to the world can hardly just be ignored, or left lying around...

If I were in the position of Superman or the Teen Titans right now, I'd be nervous. Very nervous!

Mrs. Elizabeth Holden
2386 Carling Ave, Apt. 111
Ottawa, Ontario
K2B 7G9, Canada

Whoa with the questions already, Mrs. Holden! We like to trust that Superman and the Titans are fully aware of the situation (they've been at this a while) and offer their proper—proportionate—concern. (In the unlikely event that they have screwed up—well, we'll all be reading the story behind that little adventure right here in ACTION COMICS!)

*****

Dear Troops:

"Squatter" in ACTION COMICS #584 had everything going for it. Pencils and story by John Byrne. Inks by Dick Giordano. Superman and the Teen Titans co-starring. A perfect combination that can't go wrong. Yet it did. Probably because this wasn't an overly original plotline, and Byrne didn't make it seem much fresher this time around.

The giveaway for me, that this wasn't exactly Superman, was that over the years you come to know the way a character talks and acts—and immediately you realize that what you have on your hands is obviously an imposter or the hero is being manipulated. And in this story, when the plot is finally revealed, what do we get? Just what we expected—Superman telling the disabled "villain" of other disabled people and their contributions to society. Noble? Yes, but I kind of suspect that this story may have been aimed at the children.

The art team of Byrne and Giordano was superb, as usual, but I hope that the next story gives them something better to work with.

Willie Holmes
8453 S. Saginaw Ave.
Chicago, IL 60617

We trust we've regained your trust with subsequent issues, Willie; thanks for sticking with us.

*****

Dear Super-People:

Re: ACTION COMICS #584:

Fantastic issue!

And it's good to see that Wonder Girl looks as beautiful as ever here—even totally doused in water! Far out!

Vince Farrington
11497 Somerset Crescent
Delta, B.C. Canada V4E 2P1

Careful, Vince ... voicing your opinions in such a chauvinistic manner could result in us all finding out what you would look like doused in water!

*****

Dear Andy:

The first Byrne/Giordano collaboration in ACTION #584 was the best of this month's three Superman books, which surprised me. Being an "older" reader, I wouldn't have expected to be most entertained by what John Byrne calls the "least cerebral" of the bunch. Maybe it's because this was a self-contained story, whilst the other two needed a few issues to present the overall picture. Maybe it's because the Titans were the guest-stars (and well-handled, to boot). The excellent inking of Mr. Giordano didn't do any harm, either. The idea of the superhero temporarily going bad is not a new one, and the concoction of a mind transfer machine harkened back to the days of the 60s when such fantastic things were conjured up out of the woodwork in every comic you read. (Is this another "back-to-the-basics" idea?)

The way Superman met his guest-stars was a fairly believable one. After all, you'd expect someone to answer the call when one of your superheroes goes around smashing up the city. (By the way, is this Metropolis, New York, or are they one and the same?) The problem with team-up books has often simply been supplying a good reason for the two or more heroes to be getting together in the first place ... and this is something John has obviously thought about. I liked his ideas about exploring Superman's place in the hero community. It is surprising that there isn't more coordination between the increasingly large number of costumed adventurers running around (the same way everyone at least met up with—if not joined—the Justice League of America, in the old days).

Well, you obviously have to strike a balance between including "action" in the rest of Superman's life and giving this book its own *raison d'etre*. Making team-ups a natural part of a major hero's life seems the ideal answer, and one that John's expanding on here. My only worry is the same problem Superman's always had, namely finding villains fit to fight him without resorting to throwing kryptonite around, and without becoming too "gimmicky." But Superman's now a little less omnipotent than before, and having his opponents have to resort to brain-power for a change should provide you with more than a few adequate resources. I hadn't read more than a couple of Superman books in many years and, like a lot of people, I'm excited by his revamping (as well as the updating of Batman and Wonder Woman).

There's a long way yet to go to perfection, but the path has been started upon. I'm looking forward to seeing where it leads.

Malcolm Bourne
87 Greenfield Gardens
Cricklewood, London
NW2 1HU, England

Thanks for your input, Malcolm. You were right ... this story was set in Metropolis or New York.

*****

We at DC Comics regret that a Mr. Michael Betker was depicted as a character in ACTION COMICS #589. We did not intend that he be depicted in an unfavorable manner, nor do we want his friends, family and business associates to believe that we wished to make light of his support of the Superman character. We regret any harm that Mr. Betker has suffered as a result of the publication.

*****

NEXT ISSUE: As we mentioned earlier, somewhere in this very bunch o' letters, Superman comes face to face with the Demon next month! And if you've ever seen the Demon—you'd have to admit that he sports one kisser even a Superman might find it hard staring down! The story's called "Souls of the City!" and it's by John Byrne and Dick Giordano! That's ACTION #589, on sale in thirty-odd days (or thirty regular-type days, depending on which time zone you reside in)!

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11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. Paul Levitz, Exec.-Vice President-Operations